

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

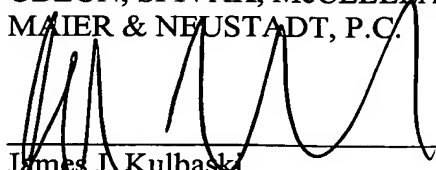
Claims 51, 53-60, and 62-99 are pending in the present application; claims 52 and 61 having been canceled. Claims 51, 53-55, 59-60, and 62-63 having been amended, and claims 75-99 having been added by way of the present amendment.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response to this indication, the subject matter which was indicated as being allowable is now contained in the pending claims 51, 53-60, and 62-74, with the subject matter of claim 52 being incorporated into independent claim 51, claim 55 being written in independent form to include all limitations of base claim 51, claim 59 being written in independent form to include all limitations of base claims 57 and 51, and claim 60 having been amended to include the subject matter of claims 61 and claim 61 having been canceled. New claims 75-99 have been added and are believed patentable over the known prior art. While not the same, these claims may be related to the claims of U.S. Patent Application 10/957,698.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
James J. Kulbaska  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)